# BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

| In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition | )           | Case No. D1-1999-94611 |
|--|-------------|------------------------|
| to Revoke Probation Against:             | )           |                        |
|  | )           | × .                    |
| DONALD WILLIAM HERRMANN, M.              | <b>D.</b> ) |                        |
|  | )           |                        |
|  | )           |                        |
| Physician's and Surgeon's                | )           |                        |
| Certificate #G 34040                     | )           |                        |
|  | )           |                        |
| Respondent.                              | ) .         |                        |
|  | )           |                        |

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby accepted and adopted as the Decision and Order by the Division of Medical Quality of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on September 10, 2007

IT IS SO ORDERED August 10, 2007

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Cesar A. Aristeiguieta, M.D., F.A.C.E.P.

Chair, Panel A

**Division of Medical Quality** 

|    | ,   |                               |  |  |
|----|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1  | EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General   |                               |  |  |
| 2  | of the State of California STEVEN V. ADLER  |                               |  |  |
| 3  | Supervising Deputy Attorney General   |                               |  |  |
| _  | MÂRY AĞNES MATYSZEWSKI, State Bar No. 137858  Deputy Attorney General                             |                               |  |  |
| 4  | California Department of Justice 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100                                  |                               |  |  |
| 5  | San Diego, CA 92101   |                               |  |  |
| 6  | P.O. Box 85266  |                               |  |  |
| 7  | San Diego, CA 92186-5266<br>Telephone: (619) 645-3039   |                               |  |  |
| 8  | Facsimile: (619) 645-2061   |                               |  |  |
| 9  | Attorneys for Complainant   |                               |  |  |
| 10 | BEFORE THE<br>DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY   |                               |  |  |
| 11 | MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA   |                               |  |  |
|    | DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA  |                               |  |  |
| 12 |   |                               |  |  |
| 13 | In the Matter of the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation Against:                             | Case No. <b>D1-1999-94611</b> |  |  |
| 14 |   | OAH No. L-2006090361          |  |  |
| 15 | DONALD W. HERRMANN, M.D.<br>6930 Royal Hunt Ridge Drive   | STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND     |  |  |
| 16 | Riverside, CA 92506   | DISCIPLINARY ORDER            |  |  |
| 17 | Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate   |                               |  |  |
| 18 | No. G 34040   |                               |  |  |
|    | Respondent.   |                               |  |  |
| 19 |   |                               |  |  |
| 20 | IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the                              |                               |  |  |
| 21 | above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:                                   |                               |  |  |
| 22 | <u>PARTIES</u>  |                               |  |  |
| 23 | 1. David T. Thornton (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical                       |                               |  |  |
| 24 | Board of California. He brought this action solely in his official capacity and is represented in |                               |  |  |
| 25 | this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California, by Mary Agnes    |                               |  |  |
| 26 | Matyszewski, Deputy Attorney General.   |                               |  |  |
| 27 | ///   |                               |  |  |
| 28 |   |                               |  |  |
| 20 | ///   |                               |  |  |
|    | 1   |                               |  |  |
|    |   | 1                             |  |  |
| ,  |   |                               |  |  |

Q

2. Respondent Donald W. Herrmann, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Troy A. Schell, whose address is 3536 Concourse Street, Suite 210 Ontario, CA 91764.

. 3. On or about May 25, 1977, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34040 to Donald W. Herrmann, M.D. (Respondent). The Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. D1-1999-94611 and will expire on June 30, 2007, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. D1-1999-94611 was filed before the Division of Medical Quality (Division) for the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on August 29, 2006. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation. A copy of Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. D1-1999-94611 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

## ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. D1-1999-94611. Respondent has also carefully read, discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

7. 1 Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up 2 each and every right set forth above. 3 **CULPABILITY** 4 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in 5 Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation No. D1-1999-94611'. 6 9. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Division's imposition of discipline as set forth in 8 the Disciplinary Order below. 9 CONTINGENCY 10 10. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated 11 Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same 12 force and effect as the originals. 13 11. This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the 14 parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive 15 embodiment of the agreement of the parties in the above-entitled matter. 12. 16 This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to 17 approval of the Division. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Division for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, 18 19 further, that the Division shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this stipulation after receiving it. The parties also agree that the Division may communicate with 20 21 the deputy attorney general regarding any issues or the terms of the Stipulated Settlement and 22 Disciplinary Order which the Division may have. By signing this stipulation, respondent fully 23 understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind this 24 stipulation prior to the time the Division considers and acts upon it. 25 /// 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///

13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Division may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

# **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 34040 issued to Respondent Donald W. Herrmann, M.D. (Respondent) remains revoked, with revocation stayed and all prior terms and conditions remaining in effect pursuant to the Division's previous Order in Case No. 10-1999-94611, effective on or about May 29, 2002. Respondent's probation is hereby extended and he is placed on probation for an additional six (6) months. In addition to those previously ordered terms and conditions, respondent shall also be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- 1. <u>EDUCATION COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and on an annual basis thereafter, respondent shall submit to the Division or its designee for its prior approval educational program(s) or course(s) which shall not be less than 15 hours per year, for each year of probation. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be aimed at correcting any areas of deficient practice or knowledge and shall be Category I certified, limited to classroom, conference, or seminar settings. The educational program(s) or course(s) shall be at respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements for renewal of licensure. Following the completion of each course, the Division or its designee may administer an examination to test respondent's knowledge of the course. Respondent shall provide proof of attendance for 40 hours of continuing medical education of which 15 hours were in satisfaction of this condition.
- 2. <u>MONITORING PRACTICE</u> Within 30 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, respondent shall submit to the Division or its designee for prior approval as a practice monitor(s), the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal relationship with respondent, or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to

5

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Division, including, but not limited to, any form of bartering, shall be in respondent's field of practice, and must agree to serve as respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

The Division or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), fully understands the role of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan with the signed statement.

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, and continuing throughout probation, respondent's practice shall be monitored by the approved monitor. Respondent shall make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all times during business hours, and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

The monitor(s) shall submit a quarterly written report to the Division or its designee which includes an evaluation of respondent's performance, indicating whether respondent's practices are within the standards of practice of medicine or billing, or both, and whether respondent is practicing medicine safely, billing appropriately or both.

It shall be the sole responsibility of respondent to ensure that the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to the Division or its designee within 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.

If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, respondent shall, within 5 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Division or its designee, for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming that responsibility within 15 calendar days. If respondent fails to obtain approval of a replacement monitor within 60 days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, respondent shall be suspended from the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and prepared to

. 15

28 | ///

///

assume immediate monitoring responsibility. Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine within 3 calendar days after being so notified by the Division or designee.

In lieu of a monitor, respondent may participate in a professional enhancement program equivalent to the one offered by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at respondent's expense during the term of probation.

Failure to maintain all records, or to make all appropriate records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises, or to comply with this condition as outlined above is a violation of probation.

3. <u>NOTIFICATION</u> Prior to engaging in the practice of medicine, the respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s) to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to respondent, at any other facility where respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Division or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 4. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</u> During probation, respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants.
- 5. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.

7

10

11

12

13 14

15 16

17

18 19

20 21

22 23

24

25 26

27 28

- 6. QUARTERLY DECLARATIONS Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Division, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.
- 7. PROBATION UNIT COMPLIANCE Respondent shall comply with the Division's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Division informed of respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Division or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in respondent's place of residence. Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

Respondent shall immediately inform the Division, or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30 calendar days.

- 8. INTERVIEW WITH THE DIVISION, OR ITS DESIGNEE Respondent shall be available in person for interviews either at respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with the Division or its designee, upon request at various intervals, and either with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- 9. RESIDING OR PRACTICING OUT-OF-STATE In the event respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return. Nonpractice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Division or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the 1 p
2 c
3 o
4 o
5 t
6 t

7 |

practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey All Laws; Probation Unit Compliance; and Cost Recovery.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However, respondent's license shall not be canceled as long as respondent is residing and practicing medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

# 10. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

In the event respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason respondent stops practicing medicine in California, respondent shall notify the Division or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Division or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation, shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities

described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052.

- 11. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- 12. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> Failure to fully comply with any term or condition of probation is a violation of probation. If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Division, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against respondent during probation, the Division shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- 13. LICENSE SURRENDER Following the effective date of this Decision, if respondent ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, respondent may request the voluntary surrender of respondent's license. The Division reserves the right to evaluate respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether or not to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the surrender, respondent shall within 15 calendar days deliver respondent's wallet and wall certificate to the Division or its designee and respondent shall no longer practice medicine. Respondent will no longer be subject to the terms and conditions of probation and the surrender of respondent's license shall be deemed disciplinary action. If respondent re-applies for a medical license, the application shall be treated as a petition for reinstatement of a revoked certificate.
- 14. <u>PROBATION MONITORING COSTS</u> Respondent shall pay the costs of probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Division, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Division or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of the due date is a violation of probation.

2

4

5

6 7

8

9

10

11

12 13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22 23

24

25

26° 27

28

# **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Troy A. Schell. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Division.

<del>"</del>

DONALD W. HERRMANN, M.D.

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Donald W. Herrmann, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and

Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: Sul

TROY A. SCHELL Attorney for Respondent

# ENDORSEMENT

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Division.

DATED: 7/5/07

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California

STEVE V. ADLER Supervising Deputy Attorney General

MARY AGNES MATYSZEWSKI Deputy Attorney General Attorneys for Complainant

10

# **Exhibit A Accusation/Petition to Revoke Probation**

FILED STATE OF CALIFORNIA BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA 1 of the State of California MARY AGNES MATYSZEWSKI, State Bar No. 1378\$ 2 Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101 4 5 P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-3039 6 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061 7 Attorneys for Complainant 8 BEFORE THE DIVISION OF MEDICAL QUALITY 9 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 10 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 Case No. D1-1999-94611 In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to 12 Revoke Probation Against: 13 OAH No. 14 DONALD W. HERRMANN, M.D. 6930 Royal Hunt Ridge Drive Riverside, CA 92506 ACCUSATION AND PETITION 15 TO REVOKE PROBATION Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. 16 G 34040 17 Respondent. 18 19 Complainant alleges: 20 **PARTIES** David T. Thornton (Complainant) brings this Accusation and Petition to 21 1. Revoke Probation solely in his official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board 22 23 of California. On or about May 25, 1977, the Medical Board of California issued 2. 24 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 34040 to DONALD W. HERRMANN, M.D. 25

| | ///

26

2.7

28

(Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times

relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on June 30, 2007, unless renewed.

///

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation is brought before the Division of Medical Quality (Division) for the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws and the Order in Case No. 10-1999-94611. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Section 2227 of the Code states:
  - "(a) A licensee whose matter has been heard by an administrative law judge of the Medical Quality Hearing Panel as designated in Section 11371 of the Government Code, or whose default has been entered, and who is found guilty, or who has entered into a stipulation for disciplinary action with the division, may, in accordance with the provisions of this chapter:
    - "(1) Have his or her license revoked upon order of the division.
  - "(2) Have his or her right to practice suspended for a period not to exceed one year upon order of the division.
  - "(3) Be placed on probation and be required to pay the costs of probation monitoring upon order of the division.
    - "(4) Be publicly reprimanded by the division.
  - "(5) Have any other action taken in relation to discipline as part of an order of probation, as the division or an administrative law judge may deem proper.
  - "(b) Any matter heard pursuant to subdivision (a), except for warning letters, medical review or advisory conferences, professional competency examinations, continuing education activities, and cost reimbursement associated therewith that are agreed to with the division and successfully completed by the licensee, or other matters made confidential or privileged by existing law, is deemed public, and shall be made available to the public by the board pursuant to Section 803.1."

///

## 5. Section 2234 of the Code states:

"The Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].
  - "(b) Gross negligence.
- "(c) Repeated negligent acts. To be repeated, there must be two or more negligent acts or omissions. An initial negligent act or omission followed by a separate and distinct departure from the applicable standard of care shall constitute repeated negligent acts.
- "(1) An initial negligent diagnosis followed by an act or omission medically appropriate for that negligent diagnosis of the patient shall constitute a single negligent act.
- "(2) When the standard of care requires a change in the diagnosis, act, or omission that constitutes the negligent act described in paragraph (1), including, but not limited to, a reevaluation of the diagnosis or a change in treatment, and the licensee's conduct departs from the applicable standard of care, each departure constitutes a separate and distinct breach of the standard of care.
  - "(d) Incompetence.
- "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
- "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

# **CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE**

# (Gross Negligence, Repeated Negligent Acts)

- 6. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Sections 2227 and 2234, as defined by Sections 2234(b) and (c) of the Code, in that respondent was grossly and repeatedly negligent in his care and treatment of the patient listed below. The circumstances are as follows:
  - A. On or about July 15, 2004, patient Juanita M., a 75-year-old woman, was admitted to Desert Valley Hospital for cough and shortness of breath. Her prior medical history was significant for breast cancer which was treated by L radical mastectomy without further treatment other than tamoxifen. She was a smoker, but was not previously known to have cardiopulmonary disease.
  - B. Respondent was the admitting physician. In his History and Physical he noted patient Juanita M. had bilateral community acquired pneumonia and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with exacerbation. He noted that the labs indicated the patient had an arterial blood gas on 4L of oxygen that showed a pH of 7.44, pCO2 of 37 and pO2 of 52. His plan included aerosolized bronchodilators, IV steroids, IV antibiotics, and continued aerosolized mask in light of the patient's oxygenation problems.
  - C. The patient did not improve over the first 24 hours and required non-invasive ventilatory assistance with Bi-PAP and 100% oxygen. The patient was also given IV Lasix. On or about July 20, 2004, the patient was placed back on a non-breathing mask and changed to oral steroids. She developed a yeast infection for which respondent ordered nystatin suspension.
  - D. A high resolution CT scan performed on or about July 23, 2004, showed patchy infiltrates and areas of honeycombing. Respondent believed the findings were consistent with pre-existing interstitial lung disease with superimposed pneumonia.

26 ///

27 ///

28 | ///

- E. A CT pulmonary angiogram performed on or about July 25, 2004, showed diffuse interstitial infiltrates and patchy bibasilar consolidation, but was negative for pulmonary embolism.
- F. The patient underwent a cardiology consult on or about July 26, 2004. The cardiologist noted the presence of congestive heart failure (CHF) and recommended the addition of a beta-blocker and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor be added to the patient's regimen. An echocardiogram showed diastolic dysfunction and a moderate increase in right sided pressures. The patient continued to have severe hypoxemia, with an ABG on 15 L/min of O2 showing a pH of 7.48, pCO2 of 38 and pO2 of 59, as noted on or about July 27, 2004.
- G. On or about July 29, 2004, the patient developed a Stage II decubitus ulcer. She also developed hyperglycemia exacerbated by the high dose steroid treatment for which she received a sliding dose insulin treatment.
- H. The patient also underwent a pulmonary consultation and a diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis with superimposed pneumonia was considered. The possibility of a lung biopsy was discussed with a thoracic surgeon. Initially the patient was to undergo a lung biopsy with video-assisted surgery, but on or about July 31, 2004, it was thought the patient's condition caused her to be a high risk for the procedure and that it should be performed at a tertiary care facility.
- I. Respondent noted the patient desaturated very easily, with little exertion, repeatedly during her hospital stay. When respondent contacted Loma Linda University Medical Center to transfer the patient, he was informed there were no beds available. Respondent then made the determination that the patient should be discharged from Desert Valley Hospital, as she had "improved quite a bit" and would be followed as an outpatient.

- J. On or about August 3, 2004, respondent discharged the patient.

  During her stay Juanita M. continued to require treatment with antibiotics, steroids, bronchodilators, and supplemental oxygen. She underwent one week of mechanical ventilation, treatment for sepsis, pneumonia, diabetes and pressure sores. At the time of discharge, the patient's decubitus ulcers, her pneumonia, her cardiac condition, and her hyperglycemia had not resolved.
- K. Respondent's discharge instructions were "Prednisone 40 mg q.d.; Furosemide 20 mg q.d.; Vitamin D 400 units q.d.; KCl 10 mEq q.d.; Increase calcium citrate tablets to 600 mg 2 tablets q.d.; oxygen 7 to 8 liters per minute via Oxymizer." The patient was also to have an appointment with respondent on August 17, 2004, and to schedule one with a primary care physician.
- L. The patient was admitted to Loma Linda University Medical Center on or about August 16, 2004, with complaints of increasing shortness of breath.
- 8. Respondent has committed acts or omissions constituting gross negligence and repeated negligent acts during his care and treatment of this patient in violation of Sections 2234(b) and (c) in that:
  - A. Respondent discharged a high risk patient who still required relatively high-flow oxygen (5-10 L/min) from Desert Valley Hospital.
  - B. Respondent's discharge planning of this high risk patient who developed several new problems while hospitalized was inadequate.

# **DISCIPLINE CONSIDERATIONS**

9. To determine the degree of discipline, if any, to be imposed on Respondent, Complainant alleges that on or about May 29, 2002, in a prior disciplinary action entitled, "In the Matter of the Accusation Against Donald W. Herrmann, M.D.," before the Medical Board of California, in Case Number 10-2000-105679, respondent's license was revoked, with revocation stayed and respondent was placed on five (5) years of probation for allegations of gross negligence, repeated negligent acts, incompetence, and failure to maintain adequate and accurate records, in violation of Code sections 2234(b),

| 1  | 2234(c), 2234(d) and 2266, respectively. In addition, respondent was permanently            |
|----|---|
| 2  | enjoined from practicing Emergency Medicine and Critical Care Medicine, and was             |
| 3  | required to successfully complete both the full Physician Assessment and Clinical           |
| 4  | Evaluation ("PACE") program and the PACE prescribing practices course, offered at the       |
| 5  | University of California, San Diego School of Medicine. That decision is now final and is   |
| 6  | incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.  |
| 7  | <u>PRAYER</u>   |
| 8  | WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters                       |
| 9  | herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Division of Medical Quality issue a     |
| 10 | decision:   |
| 11 | 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate                             |
| 12 | Number G 34040, issued to Donald W. Herrmann, M.D.;   |
| 13 | 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Donald W.                                    |
| 14 | Herrmann, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician's assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of |
| 15 | the Code;   |
| 16 | 3. Ordering Donald W. Herrmann, M.D. if placed on probation, to pay                         |
| 17 | the Division of Medical Quality the costs of probation monitoring; and                      |
| 18 | 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and                             |
| 19 | proper.   |
| 20 | DATED: August 29, 2006  |
| 21 |   |
| 22 | D. 1. A.  |
| 23 | DAVID T. THORNTON Executive Director  |
| 24 | Medical Board of California State of California   |
| 25 | Complainant   |
| 26 |   |